

-- STAR MAZDA TAKES CENTER STAGE AT PIR --

The Mazda Grand Prix of Portland is a brand-new kind of racing weekend showcasing the Star Mazda Championship and a variety of modern motorsports

Rounds Four and five of the 2008 Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear take place July 25 – 27 at Portland International Raceway. The series comes to PIR involved in one of the most heated championship battles in recent years with three different winners in the first three races.

Joel Miller dominated the season-opener at Sebring, winning from the pole in the #20 JDC Motorsports/Mazda/K&N Air Filter Mazda. Round Two at Miller Motorsports Park surprised everyone with a dominant victory, again from the pole, by last-minute entrant John Edwards in the #7 AIM Autosport Mazda. And although Alex Ardoin, winner of the 2007 season-ending race at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca sat on the pole for Round Three at Watkins Glen, it was Charles Hall – who finished 2nd at Both Sebring and Miller – who crossed the finish line first in the #77 Andersen Racing/Blimpie/AccentBanking.com/Pardoes Solicitors/Allied Mazda... and took over the lead in the driver championship points battle.

The Star Mazda Championship race at PIR race in 2007 was a rainy affair that saw a first-lap, first-turn accident take out both top qualifiers. Rookie Devin Cunningham went on to win in the #33 AIM Autosport/Discovery Channel Mazda, followed by Natacha Gachnang and Ron White.

This year's PIR weekend will be vastly different than any before, and presents a unique opportunity for the Star Mazda Championship to take center stage as the main event of the weekend. The Mazda Grand Prix of Portland will showcase an extraordinarily diverse variety of racing, including a Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear double-header as well as the Playboy Mazda MX-5 Cup. Also on the schedule are the Oregon Brewers Festival, bicycles, drag racing and motocross, as well as a huge 'cruise in,' drifting and a 'time attack.'

The Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear will race twice, once on Saturday July 26th and again on Sunday July 27th. On both days the race, featuring the series' new standing start format, will take place from 2 – 3 pm.

The Playboy Mazda MX-5 Championship will race on Sunday July 27th. While the cars are production based Mazda MX-5 Miatas, their performance has been increased significantly. All cars run in open-top/convertible configuration. Closely matched cars and hungry drivers usually results in one of the most action packed races of the weekend.

The Volkswagen Jetta TDI Cup will race on Sunday July 27th. This series is making its debut in North America this season. All cars are Jetta turbo diesels, identically prepared by Volkswagen. Drivers must be between 16 and 26 years old, and were selected from a competition hosted by Volkswagen.

Formula D Team Drift presented by Circuit City will compete July 25th – 27th. This type of racing gets more and more popular every year. Drivers are not rewarded for the

fastest lap times, but rather they are judged on style and car control, precision and, of course, tire smoke!

The Driving Sports Time Attack will happen on Saturday July 26th. This exciting new style of racing is actually a bit of a throwback to the early days of motorsports, where street cars are heavily modified with very few limits on what can be achieved. With a wide open rule book, don't be surprised to see some surprising upsets.

Drag Racing will happen on Wednesday July 23rd and Friday July 25th. There are many classes, offering everyone a chance to get on to the track. You'll never know what you'll see rolling up to the starting line next – a purpose built drag racer, a motorcycle, or even a mini-van!

Northwest Spec Miata will race on Saturday July 26th and again on Sunday July 27th. This series is the ultimate in grassroots road racing. Only minor modifications are allowed, keeping costs down and competition fierce. This is seen as one of the most affordable and exciting forms of amateur racing.

Thursday Night Motocross will be in its regular slot on Thursday July 24th. Some of the best motocross action in the Northwest on one of the finest tracks on the West Coast. Races are held under the lights every Thursday evening.

Mazda Grand Prix of Portland Ticket Information

- Tickets for July 23 Drag Racing & Beaches Cruise In: \$8
- Tickets for July 25 –27: \$15 per day
- Tickets for July 25th include late night drag racing
- Tickets for July 26th include Time Attack
- Children 12 and under are free with a paid adult
- No reserved seating, paddock access is free
- Parking \$5 per day
- Oregon Brewers Festival Discount: \$10 per person
- \$5 off the price of a race ticket for attendees arriving with a wristband from the Oregon Brewer's Festival
- Entry to the PIR Oregon Brewers Festival tent is free with admission
- Car Club Discount: \$10 per person (includes car pass)
- Exclusive parking area near main straight
- Motorhomes and Camping Spaces (July 24-27)
- RV's \$150 for all three days, includes two (2) 3 Day Tickets
- Camping \$75 for all three days, includes admission for two for all three days

For further information, go to www.mazdagrandprix.com or call (503) 823-RACE

Portland International Raceway History

Portland International Raceway is built on the former location of the World War II city of Vanport, which was wiped out by a 1948 flood. The Army Corps of Engineers sold the site to the City of Portland in 1960 and in 1961 the first Rose Cup races were held.

The Portland Jaycees saw that the abandoned roads of Vanport had the potential to become a road race course and convinced the Rose Festival that they should sponsor a race during their annual celebration. The first Rose Cup races were held in June of 1961, starting a tradition that continues today. Soon after that first race both Go Kart and Motorcycle enthusiasts started race programs of their own with Drag Racers starting about four years later.

In 1965 the first drag races were held at PIR and the first Trans Am races in 1972. In 1978 IMSA came to Portland with the first GTP sports car race in the G.I. Joe's / Camel Gran Prix, followed in 1984 by CART with Indy Cars in the Freightliner / G.I. Joe's 200.

By 1970 the old asphalt of Vanport was in such poor shape that some of the sanctioning bodies would not sanction races at "West Delta Park." Because the very popular Rose Cup Races were threatened, the Rose Festival decided to do \$100,000 worth of paving if the City would pay them back out of revenues from the racing events held there. The City accepted the offer feeling that the raceway would never be able to make the final payment.

Newly hired Racetrack Manager, Dale LaFollette, made the final payment on the loan after only two and one half years. Since that day Portland International Raceway has operated as an enterprise fund even though the first ten years were spent in the General Fund. Revenue sources consist of three major categories: rental, food concessions and advertising. PIR prides itself on being the most "user friendly" racing facility on the west coast with rates and charges 10% to 25% less than other, similar facilities.

The facility is owned and operated by the City of Portland through its bureau of Parks and Recreation. The raceway is operated as an Enterprise Fund, meaning that its operating expenses and capital improvements are covered by the revenues that it generates, as the raceway receives no general fund tax dollars. The raceway's varied, year round activities bring between 30 and 40 million dollars into the surrounding community each year.

Contact Information and Directions

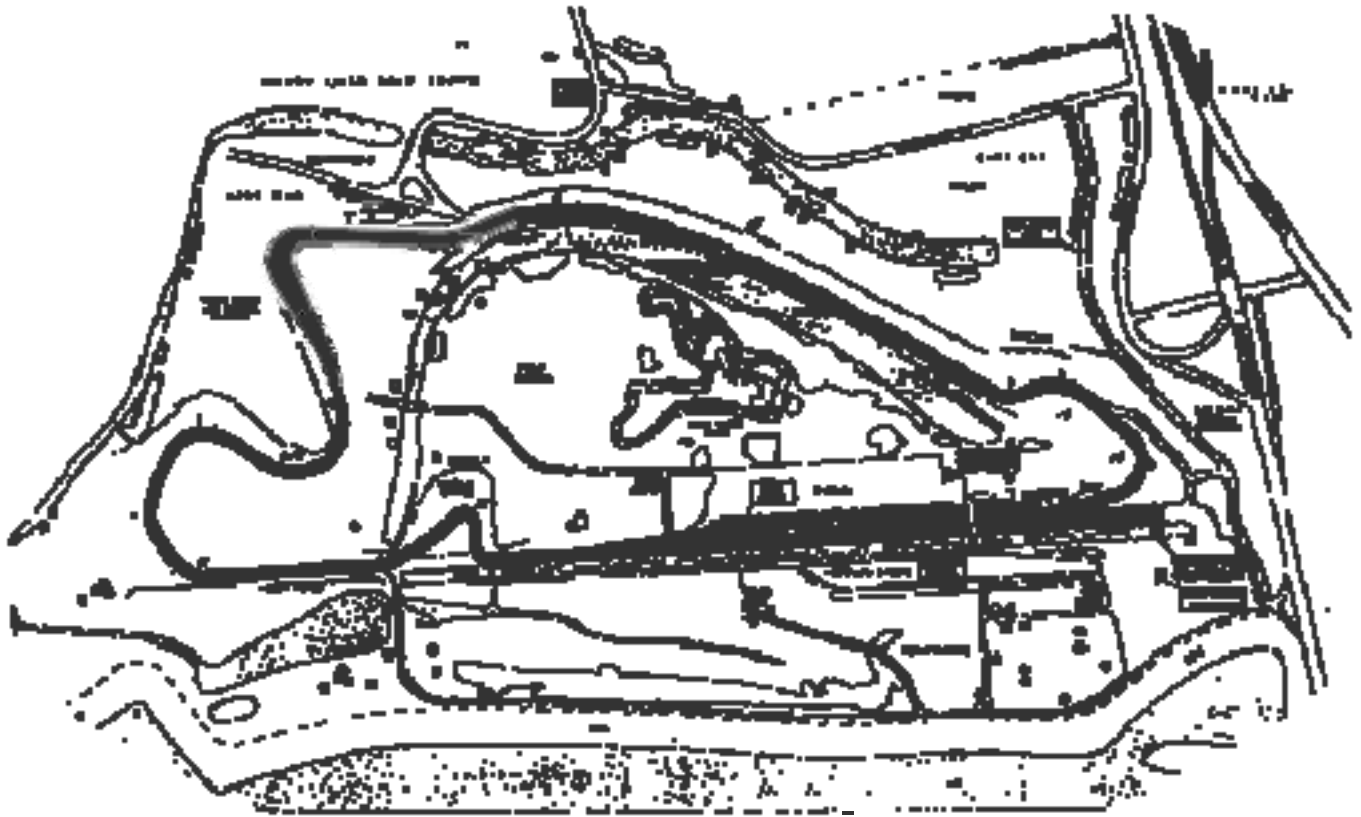
Portland International Raceway Location
West Delta Park - 1940 North Victory Boulevard
Portland, Oregon 97217

Phone: (503) 823-RACE
Fax: (503) 823-5896

Directions:

Portland International Raceway is within the city limits of the City of Portland and is located just west off from the I-5 Freeway (exit 306-B), about 6 miles west of Portland International Airport, 2 miles south of Vancouver, Washington and about 3 miles north of downtown Portland.

PIR and Heron Lakes Golf Course make up West Delta Park, with PIR's road course sitting in 180 acres of that park.



Various information Sites:

http://www.trackpedia.com/wiki/Portland_International_Raceway

<http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&ie=ISO-8859-1&q=portland+international+raceway+track+map>

http://portland.citysearch.com/profile/11279449/portland_or/portland_international_raceway.html

